

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 COPENHAGEN 3413

EXDIS

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TAGS: EEC, DA, GR, PO, SP, TU, CY, YO, XC, SHUM, UR, CG
SUBJ: DETAILS OF EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' INFORMAL MEETING, MAY 20,
1978

REF: COPENHAGEN 3409

1. REFTEL CONTAINED THE AMBASSADOR'S DESCRIPTION AND SUMMARY OF
THE BRIEFING WE RECEIVED FROM THE DANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THE
INFORMAL MEETING OF THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS ON MAY
20. THE PRESENT MESSAGE SETS OUT DETAILS OF THAT
BRIEFING.

ENLARGEMENT

2. MFA DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR DYVIG EXPLAINED THAT IN THEIR
FORMAL DISCUSSION, MINISTERS TOOK UP THE QUESTION OF HOW THEY WOULD
ADAPT THEIR PROCEDURES TO AN EC OF "12" IN SUCH A WAY THAT
THE STRENGTH OF THE "NINE" WOULD NOT BE WEAKENED. THEY
AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT THEY WOULD USE MAJORITY
DECISIONS MORE AND MORE, BUT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO
LEGAL CHANGES IN THEIR PROCEDURES. THE LUXEMBOURG
COMPROMISE WILL REMAIN.

3. THE MINISTERS AGREED TO ASK COREPER TO SOLVE MORE PROBLEMS
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ON ITS OWN AND NOT TO REFER SO MANY TO MINISTERS. IN THE
FUTURE, THE MEMBER COUNTRY WHICH REQUESTS AN APPEAL FROM COREPER
TO MINISTERS WILL HAVE THE BURDEN OF PROOF. IN AN ASIDE, DYVIG ADDED
THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS BELIEVED IT WAS WORTH REPEATING THAT THE
MEMBER COUNTRIES ARE PARTNERS, NOT OPPONENTS.

4. MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE LANGUAGE PROBLEM. THEY AGREED THAT

THE PRESENT NUMBER OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES
SHOULD NOT BE REDUCED AND THAT THREE NEW ONES WOULD BE ADDED
WHEN THE COMMUNITY WAS ENLARGED TO 12. THEY DID AGREE,
HOWEVER, THAT THEY WOULD TRY TO BE FLEXIBLE AND KEEP
INFORMAL MEETINGS DOWN TO TWO LANGUAGES IF POSSIBLE.
ON THE OTHER HAND, IT WAS FELT THAT WHENEVER POLITICIANS
(MINISTERS) AND PARLIAMENTARIANS MEET, THEY SHOULD BE ABLE
TO USE THEIR OWN LANGUAGES VIA COMPLETE INTERPRETATION SERVICES.
BY THE SAME TOKEN ALL LEGAL DOCUMENTS AND FORMAL PAPERS WOULD CON-
TINUE TO BE TRANSLATED INTO ALL COMMUNITY LANGUAGES.

5. THE MINISTERS STILL DO NOT WISH TO SET UP A FORMAL POLITICAL
SECRETARIAT, PREFERRING TO STRENGTHEN THE PRESIDENCY FROM
THE FOREIGN MINISTRIES OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES. THIS WILL MEAN
IN EFFECT THAT ONE OR TWO FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WILL OVERLAP
AT BOTH ENDS OF A PRESIDENCY: E.G., AN FRG OFFICIAL IS NOW IN
RESIDENCE AT RHGSTIANSBORG AND SOMEONE FROM THE DANISH
PRESIDENCY WILL BE DETAILED TO BONN.

6. PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY JORGENSEN THEN COMMENTED THAT THE
DANES HAD WISHED TO HAVE A MORE PROFOUND DISCUSSION ON THE
POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE EXPANSION TO
12 COUNTRIES. THE MINISTERS HAD SHIED AWAY FROM THIS DISCUSSION
AND DID NOT EVEN ADDRESS THE COMMISSION'S "FRESCO" DIRECTLY. THE
IRISH FONMIN COMMENTED THAT ANY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR
PORTUGAL, FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD NOT BE AT THE EXPENSE
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OF THE PRESENT NINE MEMBERS.

7. DYVIG NOTED THAT MINISTERS DIDNT FACE UP TO THE REAL DILEMMA
OF THE ENLARGEMENT QUESTION: A POLITICAL "YES" VERSUS
AN ECONOMIC "BUT." MORE SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW TO OPEN UP THE
POLITICAL COOPERATION MECHANISM TO THE THREE NEW MEMBERS
BEFORE THEIR FORMAL ADHERENCE TO THE EC WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT
THE JUNE 12 MINISTERS MEETING IN COPENHAGEN.

EC RELATIONS

8. TURKEY AND CYPRUS (REPORTED IN COPENHAGEN 3369).

9. YUGOSLAVIA. DYVIG REMARKEKD THAT NOT MUCH WAS SAID ON
THIS TOPIC. WHAT WAS DISCUSSED, HE RECOUNTED, FOLLOWED CLOSELY
THE REPORT BY AMBASSADOR HINTON (BRUSSELS 9729). DYVIG SAID
THAT IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE YUGOSLAVS WANT THE NINE "TO GIVE MORE"
BUT CANNOT ACCEPT THE ONLY OBVIOUS "CONSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM"
PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO THE NINE IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS:
A FORMAL PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT. IT WAS APPARENT TO ALL THAT THE
CONTINUING TALKS BETWEEN THE YUGOSLAVS AND THE COMMISSION
HAVE NOT BEEN SATISFACTORY TO THE FORMER.

10. A LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE INDIVIDUAL HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE NINE IS BEING DELIVERED AND WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE EC COUNCIL MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG ON JUNE 6. THE MINISTERS REMAIN SYMPATHETIC TO YUGOSLAV WISHES AND ARE POSITIVE IN THEIR APPROACH TO THEM BY DYVIG SAID THAT THERE WERE NO SPECIFICS DISCUSSED ABOUT WHAT OR HOW A "JIGGLE" COULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

11. ASEAN. DYVIG TRACED THE BACKGROUND OF ASEAN'S REQUEST TO MEET WITH FOREIGN MINISTERS. THE GERMANS HAVE GIVEN STRONG SUPPORT TO THIS IDEA. OTHER EC MEMBER COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN LESS ENTHUSIASTIC, BUT AT HESSELET DECIDED TO INVITE THEIR ASEAN COUNTERPARTS TO MEET WITH THEM ON NOVEMBER 20 IN BRUSSELS.

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12. DYVIG EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS CLEAR THAT MOST ASEAN MINISTERS WERE MORE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ITEMS BUT THAT THE EC MINISTERS WOULD PREFER TO DISCUSS ONLY ECONOMIC MATTERS. THE CONTEXT OF THE NOV. 20 MEETING WILL CONSEQUENTLY BE A "DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITHOUT EXCLUDING A POLITICAL DISCUSSION." COREPER HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREPARING THE MEETING BUT THERE WILL BE AN INPUT FROM THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE. DANISH FONMIN K.B. ANDERSEN WAS AUTHORIZED TO PASS THIS DECISION ON TO THE INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WHO WAS TRANSITTING COPENHAGEN MAY 22.

13. DYVIG COMMENTED THAT THE RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF EC MINISTERS TO MEET WITH THEIR ASEAN COUNTERPARTS STEMMED FROM THE FACT THAT THE EC DID NOT WANT TO ESTABLISH A PRECEDENT FOR SIMILAR GROUPS AROUND THE WORLD SUCH AS THE LATIN AMERICANS, COMECON, ETC. THE EC IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE, FOR EXAMPLE, ON THE QUESTION OF THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, WHICH THE NINE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN LIMITING TO ECONOMIC ISSUES. AMBASSADOR JORGENSEN NOTED THAT THE ASEAN GROUP WAS STILL PRIMARILY AN INFORMAL ONE WITHOUT A SECRETARIAT BUT THAT THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE ASEAN NATIONS WOULD LIKE TO MODEL

THEIR STYLE OF COOPERATION ON THAT OF THE EC.

LOME II AND HUMAN RIGHTS

14. DYVIG SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS SEEMED TO END

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ME PLACE IN THE MIDDLE BETWEEN A LITTLE-OR-
NOTHING LINK BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND LOME II ON THE
ONE HAND THE CALL, BY THE BRITISH (AND PERHAPS
OTHERS), FOR LANGUAGE IN THE NEW CONVENTION WHICH
WOULD PUT REAL TEETH INTO REQUIRED OBSERVATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE ACPS.

15. WHAT EMERGED, DYVIG CONTINUED, WAS AN APPARENT
CONSENSUS THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE A "LEGAL DEMAND"
ON THE ACP COUNTRIES TO OBSERVE HUMAN RIGHTS
AS A CONDITION OF THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH THE EC.
THERE WILL, HOWEVER, BE A REFERENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS
IN THE NEW CONVENTION. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL
TAKE UP THIS ISSUE AGAIN AT THEIR MEETINGS ON JUNE 6
IN LUXEMBOURG AND ON JUNE 27 IN BRUSSELS.

16. IN THE MEANTIME, THE COMMISSION WILL BE INSTRUCTED
TO TONE DOWN WHAT MINISTERS REGARDED AS ITS OVERLY TOUGH
POSTURE ON THIS QUESTION AND IS BEING CHARGED TO COME
UP WITH SUGGESTED LANGUAGE FOR MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION
AT THE TWO MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. ALSO, EC PARLIA-
MENTARIANS WILL BE ENJOINED FROM BEING TOO OUTSPOKEN
AT THEIR MEETING NEXT WEEK IN GRENADA WITH THE ACP
COUNTERPARTS.

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SOVIET SENTENCE OF ORLOV

17 BASED ON THE DECISION TAKEN BY FOREIGN MINISTERS
PRESENT AT HESSELET, THE DANES ARE CIRCULATING THE
DRAFT OF A STATEMENT WHICH WOULD BE ISSUED BY THEM
AS PRESIDENT OF THE NINE, PROBABLY AS A PRESS COMMUNIQUE,

"REGRETTING" THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT
IN THIS CASE.

18. SEVERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS REPORTED THEIR JUDGMENT THAT THE SOVIET REACTION TO INDIVIDUAL DEMARCHES ALREADY MADE ON THIS MATTER HAS BEEN RELATIVELY MODERATE. THEY SEE THIS AS A SOVIET ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE REALIZATION THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE A BAD CASE. ACCORDINGLY, THE MINISTERS BELIEVED THAT A STATEMENT BY THEM JOINTLY MIGHT HAVE SOME EFFECT ON DETERRING THE SOVIETS FROM CONTINUING THEIR PROSECUTION OF OTHER DISSIDENTS.

19. DYVIG SAID THAT THE HEAVY ORLOV SENTENCE HAD A STRONG REACTION ON ALL OF THOSE PRESENT AT THE MEETING AND THAT SOME RAISED THE QUESTION WHETHER A SIMPLE STATEMENT BY THE NINE WOULD BE ENOUGH. THERE WAS DISCUSSION OF HOW THIS WHOLE MATTER MIGHT BE BROUGHT UP IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CONTINUING CSCE MEETINGS AND EVEN WHETHER THE NINE SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE 1980 OLYMPIC GAMES IN MOSCOW.

20. DYVIG REMARKED THAT IT WAS NOT AT ALL CLEAR WHERE THE CONSENSUS LAY ON THESE TOUGHER MEASURES. THE DANES THEMSELVES ARE AMONG THOSE WHO WANT TO BE SOFTER BECAUSE OF THEIR TRADITIONAL FEAR THAT TOUGH MEASURES MAY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND MAKE THE LOT OF

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THE SOVIET DISSIDENTS EVEN WORSE. POLITICAL DIRECTORS WILL EXAMINE POSSIBLE TOUGHER MEASURES AT THEIR JUNE 6-7 MEETING HERE.

21. COMMENT: IT APPEARED CLEAR THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS NOT ANXIOUS FOR THIS MATTER TO BE ON THE FRONT BURNER WHEN DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN VISITS MOSCOW JUNE 14-18. END COMMENT.

FRENCH-BELGIAN OPERATION

22. AMBASSADOR DYVIG NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF THE TIMELINESS OF THE SITUATION, A FAIRLY LONG DISCUSSION OF ZAIRE TOOK PLACE IN THE EVENING AFTER FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGAUD'S ARRIVAL, EVEN THOUGH THE QUESTION WAS NOT ON THE AGENDA. GUIRINGAUD EXPLAINED THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE FRENCH INTERVENTION AND NOTED THE COOPERATION OFFERED BY OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE U.S. GUIRINGAUD CHARACTERIZED THE FRENCH INTERVENTION AS A "LIMITED RESUCE OPERATION."

23. HE REFERRED TO PRESS REPORTS CONCERNING A FALLING-OUT BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND BELGIANS, AND TOLD THE MINISTERS THAT THESE HAD BEEN EXAGGERATED. THERE WAS "NO PROBLEM BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." GUIRINGAUD WENT ON TO SAY THAT PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS, ON MAY 20, HAD HAD A LONG TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD AND THAT THEY WERE IN ACCORD ON THE ZAIRE OPERATION. GUIRINGAUD THOUGHT BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET WOULD HAVE AGREED WITH HIS ASSESSMENT, HAD HE BEEN ABLE TO COME, AND THAT TINDEMAN'S PRESENT PLIGHT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ZAIRE OPERATION STEMMED FROM DOMESTIC CAUSES.

24. GUIRINGAUD STRESSED THAT THE FRENCH ACTION HAD BEEN NECESSARY TO ASSURE THE SAFETY OF THE EUROPEANS

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AND THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO REMOVE THE TROOPS IN "A FEW DAYS". THE MINISTERS AGREED THAT THE ACTION HAD BEEN JUSTIFIED IN ORDER TO SAVE THE NATIONALS OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED.

25. DYVIG THEN REMARKED THAT IN SIMONET'S ABSENCE THE TREATMENT OF ZAIRE HAD BEEN A RATHER ONE-SIDED ONE. NO ONE SPOKE UP IN OPPOSITION TO WHAT HAD HAPPENED NOR DID ANY ONE FEEL THE NEED TO COMMENT ON GUIRINGAUD'S PRESENTATION, BUT, GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TO BRING TO THE SURFACE FRANCO/BELGIAN DIFFERENCES.

26. PLEASE NOTED DANISH SENSITIVIES CONCERNING THIS BRIEFING CONTAINED IN REFTEL AND THE LIMITED DISTRIBUTION WE HAVE MADE OF THESE MESSAGES.

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